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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Sources of Domestic and Foreign News/Purchase of
Radios/Shortage of Spare Parts

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Sources of Domestic and Foreign News

25X1 1. [] of local and foreign published news in Shkoder (through mid
Dec 52) were the newspapers 'Zeri Popullit' and 'Bashkimi'. The Soviet
papers 'Temps Nouveaux', 'Pravda' and 'Union Sovietique' were also
25X1 available. [] any other papers or magazines on sale. The
Albanian papers cost five lek each; 'Pravda' cost 10 lek; 'Temps
Nouveaux' cost 30 lek; 'Union Sovietique' cost 20 lek.

25X1 2. [] an old Irradio radio receiver [] to listen occasionally
to domestic broadcasts, more often to foreign broadcasts on the medium
and short wave bands. Although there is no Albanian law against
25X1 listening to foreign broadcasts, the Ministry of Interior, through the
Sigurimi Shtetit (S. SH. - Security Police), exercises severe measures
against listeners. (For example, in Jun 50 Hasan VERA, who lived in
Lagja Kira, Shkoder, was arrested by the S. SH. because he was caught
listening to the BBC. His set was confiscated, and he was imprisoned.
No word had been heard of him as of Dec 52.)

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3. [] the BBC Albanian broadcasts two or three times a week at 1730 hrs on the medium band. Reception was good except when jamming which sounded like thunder stopped reception completely. []

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[] There was good reception except when a hissing sort of jamming interfered. The BBC appeals primarily to the intelligentsia in Albania; the VOA appeals primarily to the working class and farmers. [] objectiveness and timeliness of the BBC commentaries, reports and political news. [] VOA was more pertinent in its Albanian comments.

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Purchase of Radios

4. "There is no restriction -- except price -- on the sale and purchase of radios. The MAPO (Magazina Popullor) State Store in Shkoder stocks Czech, Soviet and Yugoslav sets. The Yugoslavian Kosmaj set costs 25,000 lek. The Soviet and Czech sets [] cost 30,000 - 40,000 lek. No collective system loud-speakers are on sale. No private shops sell radio sets. None are sold on the black market.

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5. "Following is the purchasing procedure for a person who can afford to buy a set. He pays the price at the MAPO store and takes the set home. He cannot use it until he gets a Leja e Radios (Radio License). The MAPO gives him a Faktura (invoice bill) which lists: name and address of purchaser, make and serial number of set, price, date of purchase. The buyer takes this Faktura to the Sek. Finances of the Kom. Eke. K.P. Preredit Shkoder (Financial Section of the Executive Committee of the People's Board for the Region of Shkoder). He prepares no written application, simply hands over the Faktura. He is issued the Leja e Radios in exchange, free of charge. The issue is automatic, regardless of purchaser's social origin. The purchaser takes the Leja e Radios to the Banka Popullor (State Bank) where he pays the anticipated yearly fee of 900 lek. This bank in Shkoder is located in Shqipris Dega. Having paid this fee he may now use his radio. Sets are not adjusted to limit reception.

Radio Repairs

6. "Spare parts are rare. The MAPO has none in stock. There is only the State repair shop, Oficina Per Riparimit e Radiovet, where sets may be repaired. That shop has new parts of Czech, Soviet and Yugoslav manufacture and some secondhand parts of Telefunken and Philips manufacture.

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